

Appl. N . 09/941,124
Amdt. dated September 17, 2003
Reply to Office action of August 20, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A printed fabric with high dye penetration, high dye fixation, and a soft hand, formed by a process comprising the steps of:

- (a) printing disperse dyes on a synthetic-rich fabric, the synthetic-rich fabric having been pre-treated with a wicking agent; and
- (b) fixing the disperse dyes to the fabric by heating the fabric at a ~~preselected~~ temperature and for a preselected time about 350 degrees Fahrenheit for between 90 seconds and 120 seconds, wherein the finished dyed knitted fabric has a dry crocking index of at least 4.0 and a soft hand.

Claim 2 (original) The fabric of Claim 1 wherein the fabric construction is knitted.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (original) The fabric of Claim 1 wherein the disperse dyes are applied by a process selected from the group of processes consisting of rotary screen printing, flat screen printing, and roller printing.

Claim 5 (original) The fabric of Claim 1 wherein said synthetic-rich fabric contains at least 51% polyester.

Claim 6 (original) The fabric of Claim 1 wherein the finished dyed fabric has a wet crocking index of at least 4.0.

Claim 7 (original) The fabric of Claim 1 wherein the colorfastness of the finished dyed fabric is 4.0 as measured by the AATCC 61-1996 test method.

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Claim 8 (currently amended) A garment made of a fabric construction that has a high degree of colorfastness and a soft hand, said fabric construction formed by a process comprising the steps of:

- (a) printing disperse dyes on a synthetic-rich fabric, the synthetic-rich fabric having been pre-treated with a wicking agent; and
- (b) fixing the dyestuffs to the fabric by heating the fabric at ~~a preselected temperature and for a preselected time~~ about 350 degrees Fahrenheit for between 90 seconds and 120 seconds, wherein the finished dyed fabric has a crocking index of at least 4.0 and a soft hand.

Claim 9 (original) The garment of Claim 8 wherein the fabric construction is knitted.

Claim 10 (original) The garment of Claim 8 wherein the dyestuffs are applied by a process selected from the group of processes consisting of rotary screen printing, flat screen printing, and roller printing.

Claim 11 (original) The garment of Claim 8 wherein said synthetic-rich fabric contains at least 51% polyester.

Claim 12 (original) The garment of Claim 8 wherein the finished dyed fabric has a wet crocking index of at least 4.0.

Claim 13 (original) The garment of Claim 8 wherein the colorfastness of the finished dyed fabric is 4.0 as measured by the AATCC 61-1996 test method.

Claim 14 (original) A dyed fabric that has a high dye penetration and a soft hand, wherein the finished dyed fabric is synthetic-rich, is printed with disperse dyes, has a wet crocking index of at least 4.0, a dry crocking index of greater than about 4.0, exhibits colorfastness of at least 4.0 as measured by the AATCC 61-1996 test method, and has a soft hand.

Claim 15 (original) The fabric of Claim 14 wherein the fabric construction is knitted.

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Claim 16 (currently amended) A method of forming a printed fabric that has a high dye fixation and a soft hand, comprising:

- (a) printing disperse dyes on a synthetic-rich fabric, the synthetic-rich fabric having been pre-treated with a wicking agent; and
- (b) fixing the disperse dyes to the fabric by heating the fabric at a ~~preselected temperature and for a preselected time~~ about 350 degrees Fahrenheit for between 90 seconds and 120 seconds, wherein the finished dyed fabric has a dry crocking index of at least 4.0 and a soft hand.

Claim 17 (original) The method of Claim 16 wherein the synthetic-rich fabric is knitted.

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (original) The fabric of Claim 16 wherein the disperse dyes are applied by a process selected from the group of processes consisting of rotary screen printing, flat screen printing, and roller printing.

Claim 20 (original) The fabric of Claim 16 wherein said synthetic-rich fabric contains at least 51% polyester.

Claim 21 (original) The fabric of Claim 16 wherein the finished dyed fabric has a wet crocking index of at least 4.0.

Claim 22 (original) The fabric of Claim 16 wherein the colorfastness of the finished dyed fabric is 4.0 as measured by the AATCC 61-1996 test method.